



Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting

August 12, 2020

Virtual Meeting due to Shelter in Place Order via Zoom

Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

I. Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone about 9:30 AM.

Effective July 14, 2020 an update to the Open Meetings Act requires the following:

- Councils meeting via videoconference must keep a verbatim recording of their meetings (record their meetings) to remain compliant with the Open Meetings Act.
- All votes must now be recorded via roll call

Link to the recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6MdwLJet-FFOSY32uXGPc6o8OLu6X6a81yBMrvoPxEnfoQ_zwBuRhQnIDqnjEkc

Password: !\$0QFad8

II. Roll Call/Guests Introduced

Budde, Stephen	JPA
Chavez-Easley, LCSW Margo	Child and Family Wellness Social Worker CCH
Fujara, Marjorie	CAC Stroger Hospital
Harvey, Jeremy	Chief Accountability Officer, DCFS
Klein, Gene	Project Harmony
McIntyre, James	Membership Pending
Davis-Barsh, Shirley	DCFS
Stutz, Tierney	Deputy Chief of Staff, DCFS
Svoboda, Ivy	CACI Nebraska
Talbert, Charles	DCFS

III. Welcome by Jeremy Harvey, Chief Accountability Officer, DCFS

Jeremy commented on his role as department sponsor for Citizen Review Boards and the Task Force.

2-part team – A) Gota Team (Grant Posting, Award Management, Regulatory) B) Grant team (6 Members, oversee particular portions of Grant Management, Contract Managers, Program Managers, Report Writers oversee 70 of 250 grant)

Paul asked for Sherry, Federal Grant writer to be able to attend future meetings. Will forward concerns to Jeremy directly.

IV. **Approval of May Meeting Minutes:** Motion approved to accept with requested changes.

V. **Project Child Update, Dr. Marjorie Fujara**

“Project Child” is a three-year Department Of Justice Grant of \$750,000,000 created to address child fatalities and recurring injuries. Utilizing a public health model and focusing on the following counties: Cook, Peoria, Vermillion
Year 1 – Planning/Data Gathering and Hiring of staff.

Char Rivette – Requested standing agenda item and invitation to Verlina to provide updates to leverage our work and a connection to the Needs Assessment.

Dr. Jill Glick – Offered support as a child abuse pediatrician. Raised the concern that data

VI. **3-Year Assessment**

a. Presentation 2021 3-Year Assessment, Juvenile Protection Agen

Elba Karim introduced Stephen Budde from Juvenile Protection Agency (“JPA”)
Steve Budde presented the proposal. JPA and PIE to support. Goals of the current assessment: Review of past recommendation and progress, Survey (simple qualitative survey and possible subgroups), Best Practices Document to be completed by PIE.

b. Discussion 2021 3-Year Assessment

Key Informant Table/Approach was discussed. Task force strongly urged mindfulness of implicit bias and exclusion, especially with Needs Assessment. Important to include former youth in care, foster care alumni, parents served by DCFS, foster parents, kinship outreach, survivors, human trafficking, children with sexually problematic behavior, children with special needs. Need to focus on the parameters of the task force.

Make Safe Task Force report will be available of September that may be a good resource for information.

Elba Highlighted the form sent via email for Key Informant information.

Action Item: Task Force Members to send as soon as possible.

VII. Nebraska CJTF Best Practices Presentation, Gene Klein, Project Harmony & Ivy Svoboda, Children's Advocacy Center, Nebraska

Governor's Commission on Protection of Children (est. 1992) Task Force Program
Membership consists of the Federally required roles. Non-Member but attend meetings:
Child Welfare Inspector General is not a member – Foster Care Review Office
Worked on front end of children's justice hotline, MDT model. Advocacy efforts directed to the Governor of Omaha. Federal funds flow through DCFS then to a private agency handles money. Governor liaison works with the Task Force. Focus on MDT to improve the front end of the system.

3 Year Assessment – Reviewed Data, Surveyed MDT stakeholders
17 Recommendations

MDT subcommittee with CAC and county attorney

Onboarding/best practices (All 93 counties have an investigative team)

Influence of leadership change – Enforce the role by making new leadership aware of the CJA Law and including them in the process. Structure in place to ensure continuity such as strategic plan. CJTF drives where resources go to support the work on the ground. Request for Gene to share the strategic plan and structure of legislation. Described their model as “middle of the road” where one extreme is Mississippi/Utah get funding directly and some are solely through

Manage the out of scope of needs – more narrowly define the role of the CJTF. Advise other groups such as the Foster Care Review (statutory) , Inspector General, to root out systematic report to the HHSC legislature.

Legislation related to multidisciplinary teams:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=28-728>

Legislation that requires training of the MDTs:

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=28-729>

3 Year Assessment Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment, the Commission is making the following 17 recommendations to the State of Nebraska:

1. Provide ongoing, statewide technical assistance for county attorneys and child advocacy center coordinators to improve multidisciplinary team performance.
2. Evaluate current strategies to improve child and family access to quality mental health care.
3. Identify strategies to improve law enforcement sharing reports with the Department of Health and Human Services as required in statute.

4. Provide training for multidisciplinary teams on the roles and responsibilities of agencies investigating child abuse and neglect, trauma, and specific types of populations and cases.
5. Provide training and technical assistance for county attorneys on protecting child victims and witnesses.
6. Review law enforcement training on child abuse and neglect investigations and identify any needed updates.
7. Clarify and update the Nebraska's Child Protection and Family Safety Act.
8. Adopt mandatory training requirements on child abuse reporting for key professions.
9. Require assessment of all reports of suspected trafficking of minors.
10. Study and revise Neb. Rev. Stat. §29-1926, process for video testimony by children.
11. Adopt multidisciplinary team protocols or internal agreements consistent with best practice.
12. Review statutes and policies on educational neglect.
13. Expand initiatives to serve missing youth.
14. Create an orientation and onboarding for multidisciplinary team members.
15. Expand court school programs for child victims or witnesses.
16. Expand community response to child abuse and neglect reports not accepted for investigation.
17. Study the feasibility of expanding the triage center model.

Action Item – Nebraska CJTF Strategic Plan

Future Guests – Utah, Texas, California, Michigan

Action Item: Char Rivette to reach out

VIII. Discussion of Omaha Presentation

a. MDT

There was some discussion on best practices for MDT models to keep in mind for the CJTF and the danger in system driven view vs. those served. Discussion about legal obstacles and lack of interagency collaboration.

b. CJTF Recommendations/Role as a CRP

Legislated to exists but no legislation to respond. May be an opportunity to review where the gap may be related to legislative representation and access to leadership. Task Force continues to wrestle with how to get key stakeholders engaged to create change. Also need to coordinate with other CRP to leverage the work, what are the best practices and approach.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/management/administration/partnerships/oversight/citizen/>

IX. Budgetary Information, Shirley Davis-Barsh

Shirley provided an update on the status of the budget and how funds must be utilized and requested.

X. New Business

a. CANTS Problems

Discussion about concern of redaction of reporter creating concern and issue. Tierney Stutz to research concern raised.

b. Personnel Update

Sherry Cobbins is no longer the grant writer. Charles Talbert is now the sole support for the grant and the administration of the Task Force. The Task Force once again voiced frustration by the lack of communication.

XI. Parking Lot Items - None

XII. Upcoming Meetings

- November 12 – Via Zoom
- February 10, 2021 (Peoria)
- May 12, 2021 – (Carbondale) To be determined.

XIII. Meeting adjourned at about 1:00 pm

XIV. Attendance and Voting Record

	CJTF ROSTER	8/12/2020	Vote - May Meeting Minutes
1.	Atwood, Tamela	Absent	N/A
2.	Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	Present	Y
3.	Brandt, Michael	Present	Y
4.	Bree, Debra	Present	Y
5.	Brown, Leah	Present	Y
6.	Christopherson, Mari	Present	Y
7.	Cowart, Lark	Present	Y
8.	Glick, Jill	Present	Y
9.	Hamann, Paul	Present	Y
10.	Hofmann, Molly	Present	Y
11.	Karim, Elba	Present	Y

12.	Ma, Cassandra	Present	Abstained
13.	Mangiaracino, Kim	Present	Y
14.	McNamara, Kathy	Present	Y
15.	Milleville, Annette	Present	Y
16.	Petrak, Channing	Present	Y
17.	Porter, Chantelle	Present	Y
18.	Reynard, Charles	Absent	N/A
19.	Rivette, Char	Present	Y
20.	Stein, Mary	Present	Abstained
21.	Stoffer, Brian	Present	y
22.	Theus, Frederika	Present	Y
23.	Torres, Rhiannon	Present	Y
24.	Trotter, Dion	Present	Y
25.	Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	Present	Y

Respectfully submitted,

Rhiannon Torres, Secretary
Children's Justice Task Force